SHARON PUBLIC LIBRARY
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# TOWN OF SHARON MASSACHUSETTS

# SPECIAL WARRANT

**With Report And Recommendations**
**Of The**
**Warrant Committee**

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# SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1986
8:00 P.M.

**MEETING AT HIGH SCHOOL, POND STREET**

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO MEETING**

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WARRANT COMMITTEE

Lee Barron Wernick, Chairman

Leland Katz, Vice Chairman

Arlene Chavez

Patricia W. Doherty

David B. Kaplan

David J. Levenson

Bruce Luchner

Robert M. Soffer

Joanne R. Winer

OPEN WARRANT MEETING

Wednessday, November 12, 1986

7:30 P.M.

Town Office Building

You must be a registered voter to attend Town Meeting.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Norfolk, ss.

To either Constable of the Town of Sharon, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sharon qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the Arthur E. Collins Auditorium at the Sharon High School on Pond Street in said Sharon on Monday, the 17th day of November, A.D. 1986, at 8:00 P.M., and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1

To determine if the Town will vote to accept Section 7-A of Chapter 32-B of the General Laws providing that the Town, in addition to the payment of fifty per cent of a premium for contributory group life and health insurance for employees in the service of the Town and their dependents, pay a subsidiary or additional rate, or act in any way relating thereto.

Sharon Police Association

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Passage of this article will enable the Town to pay more than the fifty per cent of the premium it now pays for contributory life and health insurance for employees of the Town and their dependents. Favorable action by Town Meeting is required on this article in order for action to be possible under Articles 2 and 3 which follow. It in no way, however, obligates the Town to take such action. Given that statement, this is an extremely important and bothersome article. Town Meeting must understand that should this article be passed and subsequent positive action be taken on Articles 2 and 3, that such action, by state law will be binding for all of the employees of the Town and that once the per cent is increased that the Town will be unable to adjust it downward at any future date. Ultimate cost to the Town could be in the range of many hundreds of thousands of dollars per year which would go up with insurance costs and over which the Town would have no

control. Even with this situation in mind, your Warrant Committee is mindful of the legitimate needs of the Town's employees and feels that the parties involved should further explore alternative solutions and make appropriate presentations to the Warrant Committee. Therefore, the Warrant Committee is unable to make its recommendation at this time.

ARTICLE 2

To determine if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to increase to 99% the amount paid for contributory group life and health insurance for employees in the service of the Town and their dependents.

Sharon Police Association

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article contemplates an almost doubling of the Town's contribution for the contributory group life and health insurance for employees and their dependents from the present 50 per cent to 99 per cent. Various estimates currently in hand indicate a cost range for this increase between $300,000. and $500,000. Should this article be passed in its present form, this would force Town Meeting to reduce current operating budgets for the Town by that amount and reallocate those funds into the insurance account. This is an untenable situation. It is possible that a final motion could be brought to Town Meeting which would significantly reduce the percentage being requested and put off the effective date to July 1, 1987 or the beginning of the next fiscal year. This, too, is bothersome since it would have a Special Town Meeting, early in this fiscal year, allocate funds for next fiscal year before we have even the beginning of an idea as to how much money the Town will have available to appropriate at the regular spring Town Meeting next April. Town Meeting should also understand that, while the Town's contribution for traditional health insurance is 50 per cent, that the Town employees also have the option of electing an HMO, the cost of which is borne by the Town at a significantly higher percentage because of the reduced cost. Your Warrant Committee urges the parties involved to further explore alternative solutions and make appropriate presentations to the Warrant Committee. The Warrant Committee is unable to make its recommendation at this time.

ARTICLE 3

To determine if the Town will vote to accept Section 10-A of Chapter 32-B of the General Laws - "Shall certain provisions of Chapter 32-B of the General Laws, authorizing any county, city or town or district to provide dental benefits as part of group general or blanket insurance providing hospital, surgical, medical, and other health insurance benefits for certain persons in the service, except Worcester County, town or district and their dependents, be accepted by this town."

Sharon Police Association

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article would further amend the health insurance benefits for the employees of the Town and their dependents by extending dental benefits to them which are not now part of the benefit package. The Warrant Committee recommends indefinite postponement of this article. There is simply insufficient information about the cost to the Town of such a proposal, nor is there adequate time between the time of this writing and the Special Town Meeting for this information to be gathered. This is especially true in the light of our inability to foretell Town Meeting action on Articles 1 and 2. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the design and construction of drainage improvements in Pond Street, Maple Avenue, Tolman Street, Woodland Street, Robin Road, Ames Street, and for any necessary easements, and to purchase or take by eminent domain lands or easements necessary therefor, and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

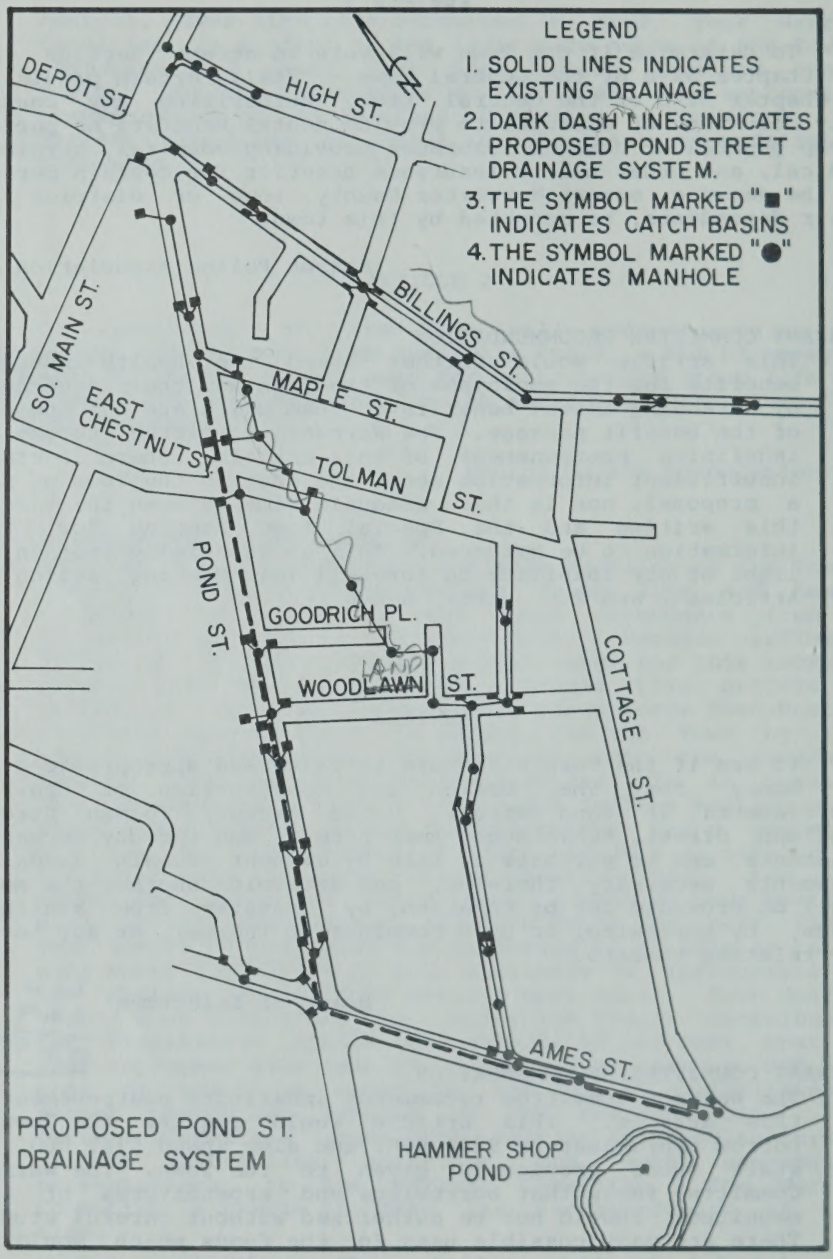
Board of Selectmen 210 169 379K

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Warrant Committee recommends indefinite postponement of this article. This article would require the Town to borrow approximately $210,000. and also spend $169,000. of state funds previously given to the Town. The Warrant Committee feels that borrowings and expenditures of this magnitude should not be authorized without careful study. There are many possible uses for the funds which would be expended by this article. There also has not been, nor

(See plan Page 4)

Consult 1+5+10 yr. 3 storm. $75,000 $100,000 $25,000


LEGEND
1. SOLID LINES INDICATES EXISTING DRAINAGE
2. DARK DASH LINES INDICATES PROPOSED POND STREET DRAINAGE SYSTEM.
3. THE SYMBOL MARKED "■" INDICATES CATCH BASINS
4. THE SYMBOL MARKED "●" INDICATES MANHOLE
DEPOT ST.
HIGH ST.
BILLINGS ST.
SO. MAIN ST.
EAST CHESTNUT ST.
MAPLE ST.
TOLMAN ST.
POND ST.
GOODRICH PL.
WOODLAWN ST.
COTTAGE ST.
AMES ST.
PROPOSED POND ST. DRAINAGE SYSTEM
HAMMER SHOP POND

will there be by the time of Town Meeting, adequate time for this Committee to weigh this request. This article should be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.
Vote: 6-0

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money for design, construction, installation and other associated costs for a municipal water corrosion control system, and determine whether the money therefor shall be provided by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by appropriation authorized by the Selectmen from the Water Surplus Account, by borrowing, by any combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The water supply for the Town has a significant copper count. Passage of this article allows the Town to construct a concrete structure at each well site at which potassium hydroxide would be added, raising the PH of our water. This would improve the quality of our drinking water and greatly lessen the deleterious effects of copper on household and municipal plumbing townwide. This article was approved in the October 21, 1985 Special Town Meeting by a vote of 178 to 85. However, the actual bids received for this corrosion control system exceeded the $150,000. already appropriated. Passage of this article will make available the balance of the funds necessary to do this project. Those funds presently reside in the Water Surplus Account. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the demolition and removal of all structures on Parcel F shown on a plan entitled "Plot Plan of Sacred Heart Property, Sharon, Mass." dated June , 1973, prepared by the Sharon Engineering Department, and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by transfer from available funds, by salvage proceeds, or by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Warrant Committee that money not be appropriated for the demolition and removal of the Sacred Heart dormitory building. Initially, an estimate of $150,000. was suggested for demolition of the property. As a result of a determination that the ceilings of the building contain asbestos, it is now estimated that it would cost $177,000. to remove the asbestos and an additional $50,000. to demolish the building. It is the feeling of the Committee that it would be fiscally irresponsible to spend those sums of money at a time when there are more pressing needs. In addition, there is a feeling that the structure, which is reportedly sound, could be used in the future and the costs of removing the asbestos could either be reimbursed by the government if the Town uses the building or the responsibility of a third party if the building is sold. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Committee to appropriate $20,000. to be used to permanently seal the building.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to amend clause (b) of Subsection 2312 of Section 2300 of the Town's Zoning By-Law by inserting, just before the word "park" in said clause, the following words and punctuation: "access driveway for any public off-street parking area;" or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

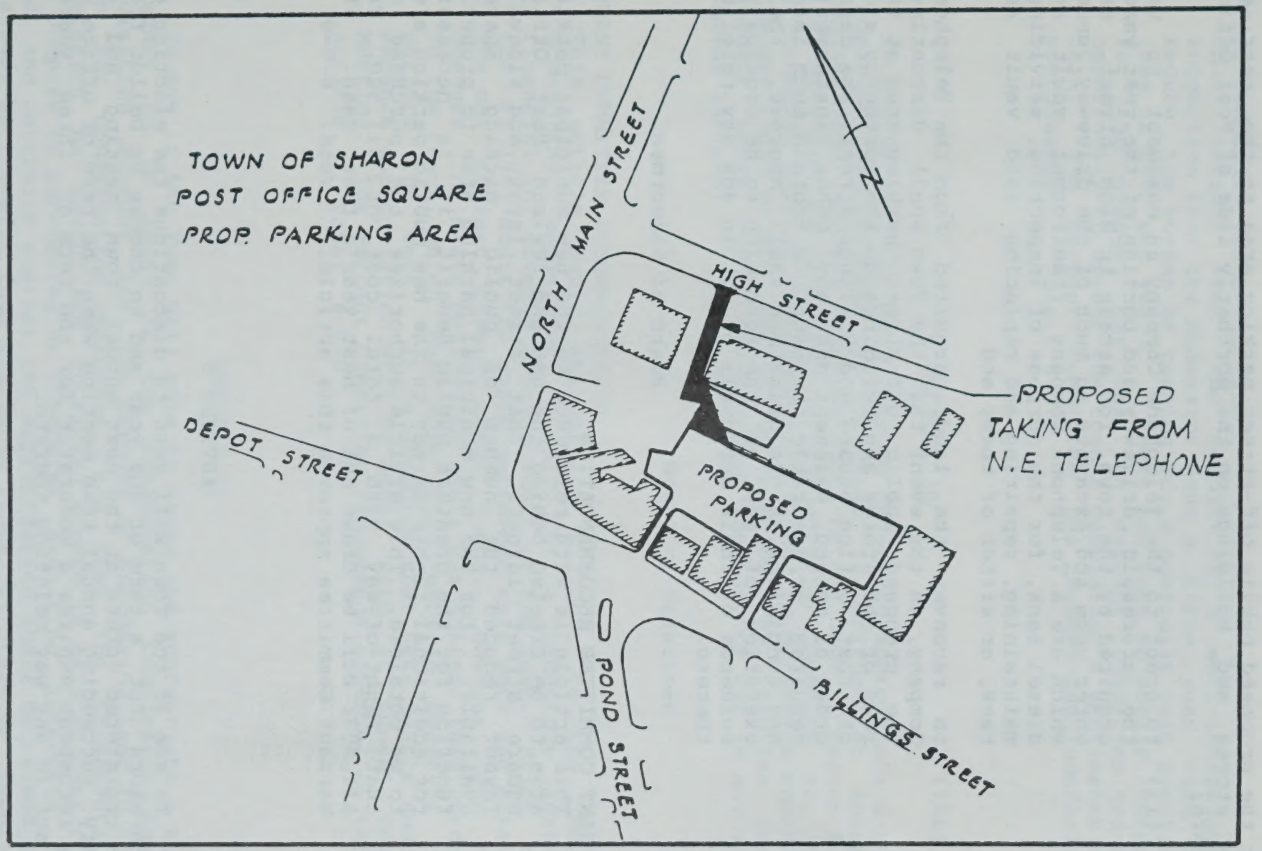
WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Warrant Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting after further study and review of this proposal.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen:

(i) to purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire title in fee simple to so much of the rear yard and the driveway of the New England Telephone Company located on High Street, as shown on a plan entitled "Easement Sketch Prop. Driveway Easement," dated June 21, 1986, prepared by Sharon Survey Service, for municipal purposes, that is, for access


TOWN OF SHARON
POST OFFICE SQUARE
PROP. PARKING AREA
NORTH MAIN STREET
HIGH STREET
PROPOSED
TAKING FROM
N.E. TELEPHONE
DEPOT STREET
PROPOSED
PARKING
POND STREET
BILLINGS STREET

for the proposed public off-street parking area at the rear of the stores and buildings on the northerly side of Post Office Square;

(ii) to grant to the Telephone Company an easement to use the aforesaid driveway and portion of the rear yard, acquired by the town, for access to High Street, and enter upon and excavate so much of the driveway, under which are a Telephone Company transformer vault and diesel tank, for the purpose of inspecting, servicing, maintaining, repairing and replacing said vault and tank, or either of them; and

(iii) to reconvey the land, acquired from the Telephone Company, in the event that the Town shall discontinue the proposed public off-street parking area at the rear of the stores and buildings on the northerly side of Post Office Square and Billings Street; the deed, order of taking, easement and any other instrument, required or desirable therefor, to contain such terms and conditions as the Selectmen shall approve, their execution of any of the foregoing to be conclusive evidence of their approval; or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article is with reference to the new municipal parking area to be created behind the new and revised Post Office Square street layout. That street layout and sidewalk layout reduced the number of public parking spaces available. For the new municipal parking area to properly function for the greatest public benefit, it is necessary for additional rights-of-way to the new public parking area to be obtained. This article authorizes the purchase of that right-of-way with a total cost of $11,500. The $11,500. will be drawn out of next year's free cash. The Warrant Committee approves this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the electing of moderators for a term of one year and to choose by ballot from its registered voters at the next annual town meeting and at every succeeding annual town meeting when the term of office of any incumbent expires a moderator for the term of three years, or act in any way relating thereto.

Town Clerk

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article was the result of a well-intentioned suggestion that the Moderator have a three year term to reduce the burden of running for a nominally paid position (pay is $60. per year). There has been no public outcry for the change, nor has the Warrant Committee had an opportunity to assess the town's population's sentiments on this. The Warrant Committee has recommended indefinite postponement. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of services to perform an annual financial and revenue sharing audit of the Town of Sharon for fiscal year 1986 in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 42, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, and to determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article would appropriate $23,000. to the Town Accounting Department to pay for a mandatory annual financial and revenue sharing audit of the Town. Prior to the FY 1985 audit the state performed this work and offset the cost against cherry sheet funds. However, due to changes in state policy the state has shifted this burden to the towns, which now must hire outside auditors to perform the work. It is expected that next year's audit expense appropriation will be dealt with at Annual Town Meeting. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Account for the purpose of purchasing land in the Town for conservation purposes, and that the Conservation Commission be authorized to expend moneys in said account for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise acquiring interests in land, and determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by state or federal and/or both, by borrowing, or by any combination of any or all

thereof, and that the Conservation Commission be authorized to apply or contract for state or federal aid, or both, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Warrant Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting after further study and review of this proposal.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the School budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting, and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

School Committee

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This article will appropriate $30,915. to the Sharon school budget. It is anticipated that these funds will be used for administrative support to satisfy mandatory state reporting requirements, to selectively restore funds to a number of student extracurricular activities, and other school department functions. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the Health budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Passage of this article authorizes an appropriation of $7,879. to pay for refuse pick-up at municipal and school

buildings and for the disabled, handicapped and those over sixty years of age on limited incomes. This article is a result of an increase in BFI refuse collection charges, and an increase in the number of needy persons qualifying for town assistance as to refuse collection costs. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the Police budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Unanticipated turnover in the Police Department has necessitated that two new police officers be hired and sent to the Criminal Justice Academy for statutorily required training. The $5,500. requested by this article will partially fund the cost of the current police officers, who will have to temporarily fill in during the new appointees' absence. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the Treasurer's budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Town Treasurer

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

As a result in a change of law, banks are no longer permitted to waive service charges on checking accounts where there are also compensating balances at the bank. The sum requested would be used to pay for the service charges. It is anticipated that funds would be moved to a

savings account from the checking account to offset a portion of the cost of these service charges. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the Warrant Committee budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Warrant Committee

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The $4,000. requested by this arrticle will be used by the Warrant Committee to hire a part-time secretary. Before Annual and Special Town Meetings the Warrant Committee is extremely busy, but unlike the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and several other part-time town boards, it has no secretarial assistance. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to be added to the Town Accountant's budget voted at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

This article appropriates $3,500. to the Accounting Department. The money will be used to fund a much needed part-time position. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the

sum of $1,500. to increase the salary of the Assistant Assessor to a level authorized at the 1986 Annual Town Meeting and determine whether the money shall be provided for by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof, or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Assessors

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Warrant Committee anticipates that this article will be withdrawn.

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Personnel By-Law in each of the following respects, or act in any way relating thereto:

1. By inserting immediately after the words, "written examination," appearing in the penultimate sentence of the paragraph designated "9-2 Qualifications for Application," the words, "unless a written examination shall not be required by paragraph 9-3 of this chapter.

2. By inserting immediately after the paragraph presently designated "9-2 Qualifications for Application," the following paragraph:

   "9-3. Written Examination Not Required - Each applicant for the position of patrolman who is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Training Council Academy, established by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to G.L. Chapter 6-A, Section 18, or has equivalent training satisfying the requirements of said council, shall not be required to take the written examination provided for in 9-2 hereof."

3. By deleting from the paragraph entitled "Police Selection Review Committee" and from each of the next four paragraphs the numbers "9-3, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6, and 9-7" and by substituting in place thereof the numbers "9-4, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7, and 9-8" respectively.

4. By adding the following paragraph at the end of the Public Safety Category for the Police Department in Appendix A:

   "Any patrolman, appointed without being required to

take the written examination, shall be paid the base pay rate called for by step 1 of the pay schedule for a period of six months following his appointment, and, upon the expiration of said six month period, shall be paid the base pay rate provided for by step 2 unless he shall have previously been employed full time as a police officer, in which case he shall be paid the base pay rate under the step he would have been paid if his prior employment had been in the Sharon Police Department. Notwithstanding the step increase or increases provided for herein, a patrolman's probationary period shall be the probationary period provided for in 5-5 of this By-Law or in the collective bargaining agreement, whichever is applicable."

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Passage of this article authorizes the Chief of Police to recommend and the Board of Selectmen to hire experienced police officers without the necessity of the written examination now required of all new hires. The expectation is that the Town would benefit by bringing experienced officers into our candidate pool. This should reduce the number of inexperienced new hires brought into the force, sent to the police academy and equipped at Town expense, who then accept positions in other towns or with the state, leaving the Town of Sharon in the lurch and forced to repeat an expensive and budget draining process. This process also reduces the effectiveness of the police protection afforded to the citizens of the Town. The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.
Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 5 of the 1986 Annual Town Meeting for the Parks, Recreation, Community Center budget by adding the following words: "of which a sum of money shall be for out-of-state expenses," or act in any way relating thereto.

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Article 5 of the 1986 Annual Town Meeting was a routine article which presented all operational budgets of the Town. Passage of the article now before us, as an addendum to Article 5, will permit reimbursement for out-of-state

travel to the Recreation Department. No new Town monies will be expended by this article. The Warrant Committee recommends passage of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 5 of the 1986 Annual Town Meeting for the Department of Public Works budget by adding the following words: "of which a sum of money shall be for out-of-state expenses," or act in any way relating thereto.

Board of Selectmen

WARRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Article 5 of the 1986 Annual Town Meeting was a routine article which presented all operational budgets of the town. Passage of the article now before us, as an addendum to article 5, would permit reimbursement for out-of-state travel expenses for the Department of Public Works. No new monies will be expended by this article. The Warrant Committee recommends passage of this article. Vote: 6-0-0

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same in accordance with the Town By-Laws.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 2nd day of October, A.D. 1986.

NORMAN KATZ, Chairman

COLLEEN M. TUCK

MICHAEL L. COOK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

Attest: BERNARD F. COFFEY, Constable
Sharon, Massachusetts
October 3, 1986

TOWN OF SHARON
Sharon, Massachusetts 02067

SHARON MASS.

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